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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

C/NIC

NIC #00722-84
31 January 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Chairman, National Intelligence Council
Vice Chairmen, National Intelligence Council

FROM : Fritz W. Ermarth
National Intelligence Officer for USSR-EE

SUBJECT : SRP Comments

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1. Some of the suggestions made by the SRP are valuable and will be incorporated into the NIE. But I disagree with the thrust of the SRP comments on "generality."

2. In weighing the approach taken in the NIE it is important to keep in mind its purpose, namely to give policymakers a broad view of the likely situation in Eastern Europe as a whole for the rest of this decade and the ensuing constraints and opportunities for US policy. We have been in touch with the relevant NSC and State Department offices during the drafting and have had their enthusiastic support for this approach. Consequently we do not intend to get into the details suggested by the SRP in their Paragraph 2. Examination of these points would have to be on a country-by-country basis, would bog down the reader for whom the NIE is intended, and can better be handled by DDI typescripts and assessments when needed by policymakers (as was done during the Polish crisis and the Yugoslav financial rescue effort.)

3. Paragraph 3 -- entitled "omitted factors" contains valuable suggestions for introduction or amplification on the text. We will treat each of them through additional language to be introduced during the coordination meetings.

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4. On length we do expect that the natural process of editing that takes place during coordination will shorten the text somewhat. Additionally we will look at the post-coordination product to ensure that it is as tight as possible. But, in view of the broad scope of this paper, we do not expect to be able to lop off one half, or even one third, of the present text.

5. In sum, unless you object, we plan to go ahead with our coordination meetings (scheduled for February 3, 6, and 7) and make the adjustments discussed above during that process.



Fritz W. Ermarth

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied